

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

TRIUMPH

"But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15:57.

THE EASTER MESSAGE is not one of survival; it is one of victory. This is the New Testament affirmation; this is the Christian dogma of the resurrection of Christ. The evidence for it comes through the medium of recorded history, and may well have been tinged with local coloring in the retrospect of authors and eyewitnesses.

At times, it may seem perplexing, even confusing; but the principal facts stand. Evangelists were concerned with stating a tremendous fact unparalleled in human experience; they were not concerned with presenting evidence to prove it. This was the fact: "Now is Christ risen from the dead." This was the response: "Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." The heart leaps to meet the news of the divine triumph.



REV. D. M. CLARK

THE HEAVY gloom of Calvary fled before the triumph of Christ's resurrection. The disaster of the cross had been complete and unexpected. It could only have been reversed by an event as momentous as the resurrection. Thirty-six hours after Jesus' death and burial, word reached His disciples that His tomb was empty! He was no longer dead, His followers were convinced that He was alive, and their conviction was so profound they communicated it to others on a scale hard to measure. "Now is Christ risen from the dead. . . . Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

WHAT is the deeper meaning of this for us? It means the victory of God over the forces of darkness. Here the resurrection is God's vindication of His Son. Every title He had claimed, or His followers had claimed for Him, is now attested by God Himself.

The earliest writers of the New Testament use the passive voice in preference to the active, in describing what happened on that "first day of the week" after Calvary. Rarely does Paul say "He rose," often he says, "He was raised." "God raised Him." "We have testified of God that He raised up Christ." "He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him." (Philippians 2:8, 9).

How much this should mean to you and me! Does the universe care nothing for goodness, and truth, and love? Can Jesus be permanently beaten? Easter is the triumphant answer. God vindicates the faith, and love and life of Jesus. Such love has an infinite Ally in the very fabric of things. . . . "Now is Christ risen from the dead."

The alternative is enough to make even Paul shudder. Earlier, in this first epistle to the Corinthians, he takes a look at it, "If Christ be not risen. . . your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. . . But Now is Christ risen from the dead."

NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD, and victory belongs to love. The cross was Christ's mark--love's supreme offering; and the resurrection was God's countersign. The resurrection is the triumph of God, the vindication of the divinest of all the sons of men, and the victory of righteousness.

But this Easter triumph means also the assurance of life beyond life for our beloved. The resurrection must not be identified solely with immortality; it is much more than that, it is also the assurance that "Now is Christ risen from the dead. And become the first fruits of them that sleep."

Pagans in the first Christian centuries were astonished at the contempt for death exhibited

Come rejoice in the praise of our Lord and share in the boundless blessings of Easter.



May the message of eternal life rekindle your faith in the goodness of man.

Holy Lenten Week

PROGRAM

CONDUCTED BY the Pastors of The Fellowship of Churches, a Holy Lenten Week program which began last Monday will conclude at a Sunday Morning 4:30 a.m. Service at Doolittle Recreation Center.

Monday night's Service was held at New Hope Baptist Church, the Rev. J. C. Coleman, pastor, with the Rev. J. L. Simmons delivering the Sermon. On Tuesday night The Rev. Cleveland Alexander gave the Sermon at Carver and New Light Baptist Churches, The Rev. James Proby and the Rev. J. Y. Earl, Pastors. Host Church on Wednesday night was the Bethel Baptist Church, The Rev. I. W. Wilson, Pastor. The Rev. J. Proby preached the Sermon.

Tonight's (Thursday) Services will be held at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church, The Rev. F. N. Addison, Pastor. The Sermon will be delivered by the Rev. I. W. Wilson.

Beginning Friday morning at 9 a.m. all-day Services will be conducted with all participating Ministers delivering Sermons from biblical texts of the Crucifixion.

DENTON PHARMACY



On Owens Avenue
West of 'H' Street



642-4381

OUR EXPERT PHARMACIST

Has your Doctor's
ENDORSEMENT

A Gift Wonderland!

Your Neighborhood DRUG STORE

by the Christians. It was the risen Christ who gave them the power to live above the fear of death. The Lord's victory had given them assurance of their own.

The resurrection is the triumph of One who is the soul's companion here and hereafter. Easter means a Christ alive forevermore. And He remains our eternal contemporary. To millions Christ is alive--the companion of their inner lives.

THIS MUST BE REMEMBERED: the triumph is shared by those who love Him. It is deeply significant that the risen Lord appeared to those whose need was great and who loved Him after their poor human fashion. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, who was overwhelmed by the emptiness of the tomb; He appeared to Peter, who was weighted down with the enormity of his betrayal; He appeared to Thomas, stubborn in his insistence of fact, and stubborn also in his fidelity to the Master.

Not to convince outsiders or to confound opponents, but to strengthen and empower disciples, did He appear to them. "Judas (not Escariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

For Those Who Believe

CHICAGO--James Edward Taylor, 25, a polio victim who has not let a life on crutches slow down his ambition and achievements, was announced as "Chicago Goodwill Worker of 1966" during the chapel service at Chicago Goodwill Industries, 1500 W. Monroe St.

In making the presentation, William Ragolio, Goodwill's executive director, cited the unusual progress made by Taylor in 1962 as a clerk-typist in the public relations division. Today he holds a key position in the accounting division.

Life was full of activity and fun as he grew up on his grandparents' farm near Utica, Miss. But the normal joy of boyhood turned suddenly to the serious business of pain in 1951 when he was stricken by crippling polio, and at age 10 he was hospitalized in Vicksburg, Miss., for three months. Then he had to adjust to wearing leg braces for the next five years.

Today Taylor, a bachelor, gets around on crutches, without an assist from anyone.

TAYLOR MOVED to Chicago in 1956 after graduating from Utica's Hubbard Grade School. Here he attended Spalding High School. With the help of the Illinois State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Taylor attended Marion College of Commerce on a full-time basis for 12 months.

A few part-time and temporary jobs followed; then in 1962, he came to Goodwill, attending Marion in the evening to complete a two-year course.

"Reliable . . . dependable . . . cheerful . . . likeable" are co-worker's descriptions of Taylor. His selection as "Goodwill Worker of the Year" in balloting by co-workers attests to the high regard they have for him and his achievements.

"What I can appreciate most about Jim is his initiative and eagerness to improve and expand his skills. These attributes, coupled with an alert and receptive mind, foreshadow a bright future for Jim," said Donald R. Smith, director of accounting.

Taylor's plans for the future include a return to school and a degree in accounting.

Chicago Goodwill Industries, organized in 1919, presently offers on-the-job training to more than 500 handicapped men and women through a unique program that depends on the public for contributions of used clothing, household articles, toys and miscellaneous items.

PICK UP MARV'S CLEANERS AND DELIVERY

Send Your
EASTER CLEANING
Early!

PICK-UP & DELIVERY

MARV'S CLEANERS
1402 D ST. 384-5548
OPEN: 8 A.M. TIL 10 P.M.